

Southwest Area Engine Operators Committee Meeting
Fall Session
10/12 – 13/2005
Albuquerque New Mexico.

SWAEOC Officers in attendance:

Chair – Todd Lerke
Vice Chair – Absent
Secretary – Bill Morris
NM Mentor- Virgil Reynolds
AZ Mentor- Vacant

Zone Reps:

Flagstaff Zone: Josh Goldstein
Grand Canyon Zone: Vacant – Needs New Rep!
Central West Zone: Vacant – Needs New Rep!
White Mountain Zone: Bill Morris
South East Zone: Absent
Taos Zone: David Baca
Santa Fe Zone: Andrew Valdez
Albuquerque Zone: Todd Lerke
Gila Zone: Absent
Lincoln Zone: Virgil Reynolds

SWAEOC Guests:

Bequi Livingston FAM / Regional Office
Mary Zabinski FAM / Regional Office / SWCC
Frank Bedonie SWCC
Harry Wheeler Sr. BIA / Northern Pueblos
Frederic Toshewana BIA / Zuni
Jeanette Early Cibola S. O.
Bea Day R3 Engine Academy – Ops.
Steven Wallace R3 Engine Academy – Deputy Ops.
Jim Minturn R3 Engine Academy – Driving
Dana Carter Sandia R.D. FMO
Jonathan T. Boe Sandia R.D. AFMO
Clint Coates R4 Dixie / Cedar City RD
Robert Lamping R4 Wasatch / Cache – Salt Lake RD
John Johanson R4 Humbolt / Toyabe – SMNRA Las Vegas
Brandon Cichowski R4 Payette / Central Zone

NOTES:

Todd Lerke recapped the progress in the last year on several Working Groups:

Code 3

Identifiers

Model 54 Engine

National Engine Working Group (National Engine Committee)

Engine Inventory

R3 Fire Equipment Committee progress

SWA Engine Academy

IFPM / Upgrades

Good Job and Thank You from SWAEOC to the members of the above subcommittees that were able to bring things together or to a close.

Currently with the upgrades the 8 / 7 / 6 ladder is in place on the Type 3 engines on the Apache / Sitgreaves. The Type 6 Captain positions are undergoing an adjustment as well. Their jobs are currently GS 6's and will be flown as GS 7's going from 18 & 8 to PFT. The Cibola will closely follow suit, currently their Type 6 Captains are GS 6 PFT and the forest will be looking to promote in a similar fashion.

The status of the desk audit from the Coconino, this did end up at the Washington Office due to "National Implications". As of this meeting there was no official word regarding a decision. When the committee gets the news the secretary will pass it along.

Bequi Livingston RO / FAM Gave a R3 fire Ops. Safety updates and for Fire Season '05 there was 24 safenets filed. Twenty-one were Communications related, one was fleet related with two others were random. She also commented on the amount of fire equipment that got red tags at the R3 Engine Academy. Fleet will be taking a much more active role with the maintenance unit for the next go round. Bequi also spoke about heat-related illnesses, overuse injuries and motor vehicle incidents. She gave a short presentation on the Hurricane Katrina / Rita support. To sum it all up ALL RISK!! Be Prepared.

What's new for 2006? Bequi wrapped up the issues as follows:

- Incident Sign Installation Guide – This is a PMS manual for Incident Management Teams re: signage around camp.
- Medical Qualifications Standards (2008) – Forest Service implementation of DOI physicals for all in fire.
- Pulaski Conference – Simplification of Fire Operations
- Fire Ops Safety Regional Website – Mary Zabinski "One Stop Shopping" related to safety issues.
- "Fireline Fitness" – New regional publication.
- Engine Academy Support – Bring in Safety & Ops.

R3 Engine Academy Update – Bea Day, Steven Wallace, Jim Minturn.

For the 2005 Academy there were 32 students and for the 2006 Academy there will be 50 names picked and pre-work sent to them during the Dec. meeting. Pre-work will be sent back and graded and out of the 50 nominees, 40 will be selected. The other ten will be alternates, **IF** their pre-work is satisfactory. Hopefully this will eliminate the problems we had with students showing up without the pre-work done.

This will add 2 more engine companies to the mix for a total of 10 companies. There will be a meeting in Phoenix this month on the 17th & 18th for the Academy's Incident Management Team. This year the attendance of a regional academy was elevated in the 5109.17 from level III to level II training recommendation.

Dates for this spring's academy will be March 20th thru 31st in Mesa AZ. At the City of Mesa Fire Training Center in east Mesa adjacent to Falcon Field. There will be a Fire Equipment (Engines) Request coming from Brian Ingals Regional Fleet Manager / Equipment Development and Fleet Operations – RO. This request will show up some time this month.

Academy Expectations – INTENSITY! Hydraulics! For prospective students, make sure your prework is done BEFORE showing up for class. There was an issue with this for the first Academy class, this grace will not be given again, Please ensure it is complete. Like the last session, the top 25 % of students from this group will be asked to return to the Academy for a three year hitch to help teach or coach and to help develop the Academy as a whole.

There will be time spent by students in after class practice & study. Students need to negotiate with the home unit for comp time or credit hours.

Academy Permanent home, facilities are weather dependent as well as infrastructure of the city it resides in. BIA in Phoenix is offering the Academy facility space at either of two sites in the east valley areas. The Pima / Salt River Reservation or the Gila River Reservation. The Williams Gateway airport is also an option. The Academy Site Working Group will be left up to the Academy IMT and SWAEOC to work out and will be identified by the end of this meeting. Currently the Academy sessions are 2 weeks long and can handle 40 students. Within 2 years the Academy expects to add 1 additional week to the schedule and an additional 40 students. There will be a one-week over lap in the 3-week period. For spring '06 a group from R4 wants to have a couple people go through the Academy, at the Dec. mtg. this will be discussed. R4 plans on sending up to 10 people to shadow with us, John Johanson from Las Vegas was present at the last meeting and seems to be the one committed to showing up each time. I think more will show up at the Dec. mtg. The folks at the mtg. for the Academy discussed the specifics of what we need at a permanent facility for the Academy and Todd took down the information and will follow up with it. It seems like the Region is pushing for Snowflake/Taylor as the permanent location, a facility is already planned for construction there.

There is currently a New Mexico Engine Academy offered where several “S” courses are taught. It was brought to the attention of SWAEOC that there are questions as to which Academy will “satisfy” the 5109.17. SWAEOC will consider submitting a change of wording for the 5109.17 to reflect the operations aspect of our Academy.

There was discussion of a National Engine Academy; this will be out of reach for some time (10 years). Currently Academy curriculum needs to be standardized before a national program can be implemented. Also for future issues is Interagency Fleet Standardization. Currently it is the standardization issue that is driving what is happening with the fleet world from engine design to how FMO & AFMO rigs are coming lettered and striped (DIV & BATT). For reference this is identified in the Interim Directive 5130-92.

Southwest Area Engine Academy Phase II – This was a power point presentation for another future aspect of our Academy and that is Tactical Urban Rescue.

National Engine Working Group:

There have been questions, why do we need this?

Consistency – In training, equipment, personnel, --?

Don’t reinvent the wheel – To learn from other regions and use what works.

Structural Triage – Who are the experts? Good debate on this; “we” consider the fire departments to be the “experts” on this one. Yet as was pointed out in the meeting, when we are teaching these courses it seems to be the FD’s taking the classes.

WUI – Comparing notes between regions.

Tactics – Quite a bit of discussion on this, the impression given at the meeting was that there are some crews out there that may be qualified yet lack the practical experience and seasons of time to train like they should be. Some of the suggestions were to have several mock fires early in the season. Secondly utilize the sand table as a tool to develop the skills. Once these specific areas have been identified – practice, practice, and practice.

National Hotshot Group – This is an excellent example of a working group that now has a very organized national voice and is also well recognized. Their ability to network and Info share are to be studied and duplicated.

Equipment Standards, Academy and training – These three items can be brought to a national focus with the help of this working group and particular issues can be addressed from a national perspective.

Zone Topics:

FLZ – Merger with GCZ – Kiabab FFMO is against this idea so the Grand Canyon Zone needs to find another Representative – HINT HINT.

Identifiers – It is the feeling across the zone that what they have now works fine.

Example: AZ-COF-E74.

Communication – Resolved within the zone.

CWZ – No fall meeting yet and the zone will need a new rep. Kc Yowell stepped down as rep when he accepted a fuels job on the Coconino. Thanks for all you're hard work Kc!

WMZ – No fall meeting yet.

Communications – Within the zone this was a large concern. On more than one occasion the entire forest will lose contact with the dispatcher's office, with radios and phones going down at the same time. Then there was the issue of repeaters.

Identifiers – The zone is still working through this one with many of the new UNICOR vehicles in place, it is just taking some time to get used to.

Upgrades – Type 6 Engine Captains are currently 18 & 8 GS 6. The paper work has been submitted to upgrade the PD to GS 7 PFT. Once the ok is given, then the incumbent will have to reapply for their old job. The A/S was not able to do an accretion of duties promotion since there are already GS 7's on the Type 3 engines in the engineer slot.

SEZ – Absent, speaking to Dennis Haygood by phone, they will have their fall meeting by the end of October.

TAZ – No fall meeting yet.

Currently the consensus seems that the FMO's within the zone frown upon the need for the R3 Engine Academy. It was mentioned that they possibly don't understand what it is all about. It was also pointed out that as the Engine Captains & Assistants from within the zone attend and bring home the training, then it will become apparent.

Balance of resources within the zone, some districts having more than one engine while other districts are cutting the one that they have. How are these decisions arrived at and what are the criteria for them.

ALB – Communication – same ole, same ole.

Identifiers – The zone will attempt to shake this one out on its own.

GLZ – Absent

LNZ – From an equipment perspective the zone would definitely like to keep the Model 70 design around. For the zone it works well.

Code 3 – How the document and all the discussion will apply to them.

WEDNESDAY

Todd reviewed the charter and the various officer positions within SWAEOC.

There were two vacancies that needed to be filled, the vice chair position and the AZ rep position. Nominations from the floor for vice chair: Claren Martinez from Taos Zone and Lindsay Yount from Central West Zone. There were no other nominations, with only zone chairs able to vote, Claren Martinez received 2 votes and Lindsey Yount received 3. Congratulations Lindsay, you're the new Vice Chair to SWAEOC for 2006!

Todd and I then asked if there was anyone from AZ that would be interested in the Mentor position and after some thought, Josh Goldstein stepped up and said he was interested. Thanks Josh and Congratulations!

The SWAEOC Officers for 2006 are:

Chair – Dennis Haygood / SEZ
Vice Chair – Lindsay Yount / CWZ
Secretary – Bill Morris / WMZ
NM Mentor – Virgil Reynolds / LNZ
AZ Mentor – Josh Goldstein / FLZ

There was a request for an article about SWAEOC, to be in the Southwest Area News Letter. Lindsay said that she would take it on. THANKS!

SWAEOC to visit the idea of having vendors attend the spring meeting.

SWAFEC – express the thought from SWAEOC on having vendors at the spring meeting. Also instead of having two separate meetings, combining the meetings back to back with a day in between for the vendors.

Todd gave a presentation on the Fire Equipment Committee and how things are progressing. The Type 3 Engine Working group has been revived and is slated to have a meeting at Goldfield on Nov. 8th. We have been asked to focus to bring together a Type 3 Engine design standard for the region.

Another thing that came from RO Fire Equipment was exploring CDL licensure for Type 6 engine captains. It is already required in R 6. Just some of the benefits of this would be a better chance for promotion and a better chance for a detail assignment. Since none of the zones had the time to get a fall meeting in place before this, SWAEOC will table this discussion until the spring session and revisit it with more zone input.

SWAEOC Working List 2006

National Agenda

National Engine Working Group (Engine Committee)

Todd Lerke to work with the other contacts in respective regions to put together the first meeting for the group this spring.

Regional Agenda

CDL's for Type 6 Captains – to be addressed in spring '06 session.
Academy Site – SWAEOC to establish a working group.
Communications Letter to Equipment Committee regarding the state of affairs.

Zone Agenda

CDL's for Type 6 Captains
Communications
Identifiers

SWAEOC determined the Academy Site Working Group should be made up of the following: Academy IMT members – The number and “who” will be determined by the Academy IMT. A Fire Equipment Committee Member, a Forest FMO, RO/Engineering, RO/Fleet and three SWAEOC members. The SWAEOC members that volunteered for the group were; Todd Lerke, Lindsay Yount, and Josh Goldstein.

Another issue that was addressed was a standardized curriculum for the Academy.

SWAEOC revisited the following working groups to see if they needed to be retained:

National Engine Working Group –	Keep intact – Shoot for spring '06 meeting.
PD / Upgrade Group -	Keep Intact
Inventory Group -	Dissolve – Take info to Equipment Committee.
Fire Equipment Letter	Dissolve
Code 3 Group	Dissolve

To the members of the dissolved groups, a big Thank You is in order for your time spent and amounts of information that was compiled to bring these issues to a close.

SWAEOC will compose a letter to NIFC regarding money for communications.
Following the Hot Shot program for portable radio repair.

NEXT SWAEOC / R3 FIRE EQUIP. MEETING

APRIL 11 – 15 IN FLAGSTAFF

PRESCOTT WILL BE AN ALTERNATE

2006 R3 ENGINE ACADEMY

MARCH 20 – 31

SAME HOTEL & TRAINING FACILITY AS '05.